



Summary of Results from Port Ludlow

Strategic Meeting on HHW and CESQG Programs, June 5th -7th, 2002

About 50 professionals from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia met in Port Ludlow in early June to discuss priority actions for state and local government hazardous waste programs.

This meeting focused on strategies for moving forward through facilitated work groups identified by the participants. Each work group prioritized issues within their chosen topic area and decided what they would do after the strategic meeting to accomplish certain tasks to move programs and the profession forward efficiently.

Two different work groups selected mercury and organophosphate (OP) pesticides as priorities for coordinated action among hazardous waste programs. Other work groups developed priority actions related to collection, legislation and policy, and how hazardous waste staff can work together more effectively. Each work group developed goals, initial steps to move toward the goal, and identified the people who will be involved in working on the each selected issue.

The following paragraphs outline the significant findings and action steps from each of the continuing working groups. You are invited to become involved with any of these groups whether you were at the strategic meeting in June or not. Contact individuals are noted at the end of each work group description.

One work group set a goal to reduce and eliminate mercury; another work group set a goal to eliminate new sources of PBTs (persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances) to the environment. These groups have divided their work as follows.

Mercury/PBT work group

Among the initial steps:

- Identify what is currently being done and planned.
- Offer to help with current efforts, such as those by the Northwest Product Stewardship Council.
- Coordinate local efforts in procurement and collection.

- Share information under a mercury umbrella.
- Support bans, legislation, labeling. (coordinator: David Giglio at the Department of Ecology; 360-407-6996; dgig461@ecy.wa.gov)
- Provide information and guidance for policy makers.
- Look beyond our usual scope at other sources of mercury.

In King County, Lauren Cole (206-296-4363; lauren.cole@metrokc.gov) and Gail Savina (206-263-3062; gail.savina@metrokc.gov) are leading a mercury work group. Kristen Weatherford, Department of Ecology, will coordinate interested parties with the statewide mercury effort (425-649-7291; kwea461@ecy.wa.gov)

OP (organophosphate) pesticides work group

One work group set a goal to eliminate organophosphate pesticides in the Pacific Northwest; another set a goal to eliminate (phase out) OPs that are the most hazardous and problematic. OPs are commonly used insecticides, such as diazinon. One reason for the focus on OPs is to protect children's health from the most hazardous chemicals.

Among the initial steps:

- Define areas for research and coordination.
- Have a conversation about product stewardship approaches to pesticides
- Define the current situation: Who is using OPs? What are they using? What quantities?
- Select a list of targeted pesticides.
- Compile pesticide reduction lessons learned.
- Identify additional strategies.
- Discuss performance standards, restrictions and bans.

Annette Frahm (206-263-3064; annette.frahm@metrokc.gov) is coordinating the pesticide effort.

The other Port Ludlow work groups reflect the break out work groups from the meeting.

Legislation/policy work group

This work group set a goal to create legislation based on the precautionary principle (do no harm). The idea is to have basic standards (e.g., not carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic, persistent) written into legislation. Industries that manufacture products containing mercury, paint, pesticides and other hazardous products would be required to demonstrate compliance with performance standards. This type of legislation exists in British Columbia and elsewhere. Among the initial steps:

- Research existing legislation based on “do no harm” idea: What is it? Who's done it? How will it work? Why do we need this legislation?
- If research was positive, write draft legislation based on existing language.
- Develop scoping paper for project for decision makers at work group's agencies, including history, goal, staff needed, budget, schedule, individual activities, stakeholders, legislative process, etc.
- Get approval from agencies to continue.

Marni Solheim at the Department of Ecology (509-456-7657; msol461@ecy.wa.gov) is coordinating this effort.

Organization and structure work group

This work group's goal is to improve communication and coordination by using available technology. Among the initial steps:

- Develop Northwest email list of interested participants.
- Develop a Northwest portion of the NAHMMA (North American Hazardous Materials Management Association) web site.
- Make it happen!
- Advertise at the national hazardous waste conference in September.
- Develop enhancements.

Jim Quinn of Portland Metro will coordinate this effort (503-797-1662; quinnj@metro.dst.or.us). In King County, Larry Holyoke (206-263-3077; larry.holyoke@metrokc.gov) is involved in this effort.

Collection work group

The work group set two goals: 1) Clarify what the regulations says small quantity generators can put in landfills; 2) Obtain the best pricing for the various waste streams for local hazardous waste programs. Among the initial steps:

Goal 1:

- Develop questions by straw polling peers.
- Submit questions to Washington Department of Ecology.

Ecology to communicate the response to all interested parties.

Goal 2:

- Develop spreadsheet to compare like items and disposal methods.
- Develop a cover letter.

Mark Nedrow of Yakima County (509-574-2472; markn@co.yakima.wa.us) and Niels Nicolaisen of Kitsap County (360-337-5781; nnicolai@co.kitsap.wa.us) will coordinate this group.

If you have any questions about the conference summary, please refer to a specific contact person listed above, or, contact Dave Nightingale at the Department of Ecology, 360-407-6392; dnig461@ecy.wa.gov).